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Title: Need to construct a bridge over river Manchai (Singimari) connecting Sitai and Dinhata sub-division of Cooch Behar, West Bengal.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (COOCH BEHAR): Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali language.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope there is a translator present in the House. Bengali is a permitted language in this House.

*SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Hon. Speaker Sir, in Dinhata sub-division that is in my constituency Sitai is a border area where about two lakhs of people reside. For connectivity in this area, there is a need to construct a bridge over River Manchai (Singimari) and this demand has been raised many times in this august House. Funds were to be released by the Border Area Development

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* English Translation+ of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Fund and a letter was written to the Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal. Later the BADF demanded additional funds from the Planning Commission. It had sent the planned estimate also but to no avail. No initiative has been taken to date by anyone to construct this bridge. I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard and would urge upon the Central Government to take up the project immediately with the help of the Border Area Development Fund so that the common people of the district benefit out of it.